

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed December 12, 2008. Claims 7, 28, 29, and 37-41 are amended. Claims 7-12, 18-19, 24-26, 28-33, and 35-41 are now pending in view of the above amendments.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicants' remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claims. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claims and the cited references. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants' understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's allowance of claims 18, 19, 24-26, 28-33, and 36 is appreciated. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful review and allowance of these claims.

The Applicants submit the following comments concerning the Examiner's statements of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action. Applicants agree with the Examiner that claims 18, 19, 24-26, 28-33, and 36 are patentable over the prior art, but respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in Office Action. Applicants submit that it is the claim as a whole, rather than any particular element, that makes each of the claims allowable. No single element should be construed as the reason for allowance of a claim because it is each of the elements of the claim that makes it allowable. Therefore, Applicants do not concede that the reasons for allowable subject matter given by the Examiner are the only reasons that make, or would make, the claims allowable and do not make any admission or concession concerning the Examiner's statement in the Office Action. Applicants further assert that claims 18, 19, 24-26, 28-33, and 36 as currently amended distinguish over the art of record.

Claims 7 and 37 are objected to as reciting “at least one of” where “either one of” should be used. By this amendment claims 7 and 37 have been amended as suggested by the examiner rendering them allowable. Claims 7-12 and 35 and claims 37-41 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 7-12, 18-19, 24-26, 28-33, and 35-41 are all patentably distinct from the prior art. Allowance of each of these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner’s Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any of the following fees that may be applicable to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178: (1) any filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16; (2) any patent application and reexamination processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17; and/or (3) any post issuance fees under 37 CFR § 1.20. In addition, if any additional extension of time is required, which has not otherwise been requested, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

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